



February 20, 2015

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## SENATE BILL No. 385

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DIGEST OF SB 385 (Updated February 17, 2015 12:46 pm - DI 106)

**Citations Affected:** IC 35-50.

**Synopsis:** Murder sentencing; aggravating circumstance. Provides that, if the state seeks either a death sentence or a sentence of life imprisonment without parole for a defendant who committed murder, it is an aggravating circumstance if: (1) the defendant committed the murder in or on real property owned or rented by a preschool program, an elementary school, or a secondary school; (2) the defendant committed the murder in a building or other structure owned or rented by a state college or university or any other public or private postsecondary educational institution or on the grounds adjacent to and owned or rented in common with the building or other structure; or (3) the murder was committed in a building primarily used for religious worship.

**Effective:** July 1, 2015.

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**Hershman, Steele, Miller Patricia**

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January 12, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.  
January 22, 2015, reassigned to Committee on Corrections & Criminal Law.  
February 19, 2015, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SB 385—LS 6721/DI 69





February 20, 2015

First Regular Session 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 385

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A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning criminal law and procedure.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1       SECTION 1. IC 35-50-2-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.168-2014,  
2       SECTION 119, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
3       [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 9. (a) The state may seek either a  
4       death sentence or a sentence of life imprisonment without parole for  
5       murder by alleging, on a page separate from the rest of the charging  
6       instrument, the existence of at least one (1) of the aggravating  
7       circumstances listed in subsection (b). In the sentencing hearing after  
8       a person is convicted of murder, the state must prove beyond a  
9       reasonable doubt the existence of at least one (1) of the aggravating  
10      circumstances alleged. However, the state may not proceed against a  
11      defendant under this section if a court determines at a pretrial hearing  
12      under IC 35-36-9 that the defendant is an individual with mental  
13      retardation.  
14      (b) The aggravating circumstances are as follows:  
15          (1) The defendant committed the murder by intentionally killing  
16          the victim while committing or attempting to commit any of the

SB 385—LS 6721/DI 69



following:

- (A) Arson (IC 35-43-1-1).
- (B) Burglary (IC 35-43-2-1).
- (C) Child molesting (IC 35-42-4-3).
- (D) Criminal deviate conduct (IC 35-42-4-2) (before its repeal).
- (E) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2).
- (F) Rape (IC 35-42-4-1).
- (G) Robbery (IC 35-42-5-1).
- (H) Carjacking (IC 35-42-5-2) (before its repeal).
- (I) Criminal gang activity (IC 35-45-9-3).
- (J) Dealing in cocaine or a narcotic drug (IC 35-48-4-1).
- (K) Criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3).
- (2) The defendant committed the murder by the unlawful detonation of an explosive with intent to injure a person or damage property.
- (3) The defendant committed the murder by lying in wait.
- (4) The defendant who committed the murder was hired to kill.
- (5) The defendant committed the murder by hiring another person to kill.
- (6) The victim of the murder was a corrections employee, probation officer, parole officer, community corrections worker, home detention officer, fireman, judge, or law enforcement officer, and either:
  - (A) the victim was acting in the course of duty; or
  - (B) the murder was motivated by an act the victim performed while acting in the course of duty.
- (7) The defendant has been convicted of another murder.
- (8) The defendant has committed another murder, at any time, regardless of whether the defendant has been convicted of that other murder.
- (9) The defendant was:
  - (A) under the custody of the department of correction;
  - (B) under the custody of a county sheriff;
  - (C) on probation after receiving a sentence for the commission of a felony; or
  - (D) on parole;
 at the time the murder was committed.
- (10) The defendant dismembered the victim.
- (11) The defendant burned, mutilated, or tortured the victim while the victim was alive.
- (12) The victim of the murder was less than twelve (12) years of



age.

(13) The victim was a victim of any of the following offenses for which the defendant was convicted:

(A) Battery committed before July 1, 2014, as a Class D felony or as a Class C felony under IC 35-42-2-1 or battery committed after June 30, 2014, as a Level 6 felony, a Level 5 felony, a Level 4 felony, or a Level 3 felony.

(B) Kidnapping (IC 35-42-3-2).

(C) Criminal confinement (IC 35-42-3-3).

(D) A sex crime under IC 35-42-4.

(14) The victim of the murder was listed by the state or known by the defendant to be a witness against the defendant and the defendant committed the murder with the intent to prevent the person from testifying.

(15) The defendant committed the murder by intentionally discharging a firearm (as defined in IC 35-47-1-5):

(A) into an inhabited dwelling; or

(B) from a vehicle.

(16) The victim of the murder was pregnant and the murder resulted in the intentional killing of a fetus that has attained viability (as defined in IC 16-18-2-365).

**(17) The defendant knowingly or intentionally:**

**(A) committed the murder in or on school property; or**

**(B) committed the murder:**

**(i) in a building or other structure owned or rented by a state educational institution or any other public or private postsecondary educational institution; or**

**(ii) on the grounds adjacent to and owned or rented in common with a building or other structure described in item (i).**

**(18) The murder is committed in a building that is primarily used for religious worship.**

(c) The mitigating circumstances that may be considered under this section are as follows:

(1) The defendant has no significant history of prior criminal conduct.

(2) The defendant was under the influence of extreme mental or emotional disturbance when the murder was committed.

(3) The victim was a participant in or consented to the defendant's conduct.

(4) The defendant was an accomplice in a murder committed by another person, and the defendant's participation was relatively



- 1 minor.
- 2 (5) The defendant acted under the substantial domination of
- 3 another person.
- 4 (6) The defendant's capacity to appreciate the criminality of the
- 5 defendant's conduct or to conform that conduct to the
- 6 requirements of law was substantially impaired as a result of
- 7 mental disease or defect or of intoxication.
- 8 (7) The defendant was less than eighteen (18) years of age at the
- 9 time the murder was committed.
- 10 (8) Any other circumstances appropriate for consideration.
- 11 (d) If the defendant was convicted of murder in a jury trial, the jury
- 12 shall reconvene for the sentencing hearing. If the trial was to the court,
- 13 or the judgment was entered on a guilty plea, the court alone shall
- 14 conduct the sentencing hearing. The jury or the court may consider all
- 15 the evidence introduced at the trial stage of the proceedings, together
- 16 with new evidence presented at the sentencing hearing. The court shall
- 17 instruct the jury concerning the statutory penalties for murder and any
- 18 other offenses for which the defendant was convicted, the potential for
- 19 consecutive or concurrent sentencing, and the availability of good time
- 20 credit and clemency. The court shall instruct the jury that, in order for
- 21 the jury to recommend to the court that the death penalty or life
- 22 imprisonment without parole should be imposed, the jury must find at
- 23 least one (1) aggravating circumstance beyond a reasonable doubt as
- 24 described in subsection (l) and shall provide a special verdict form for
- 25 each aggravating circumstance alleged. The defendant may present any
- 26 additional evidence relevant to:
- 27 (1) the aggravating circumstances alleged; or
- 28 (2) any of the mitigating circumstances listed in subsection (c).
- 29 (e) For a defendant sentenced after June 30, 2002, except as
- 30 provided by IC 35-36-9, if the hearing is by jury, the jury shall
- 31 recommend to the court whether the death penalty or life imprisonment
- 32 without parole, or neither, should be imposed. The jury may
- 33 recommend:
- 34 (1) the death penalty; or
- 35 (2) life imprisonment without parole;
- 36 only if it makes the findings described in subsection (l). If the jury
- 37 reaches a sentencing recommendation, the court shall sentence the
- 38 defendant accordingly. After a court pronounces sentence, a
- 39 representative of the victim's family and friends may present a
- 40 statement regarding the impact of the crime on family and friends. The
- 41 impact statement may be submitted in writing or given orally by the
- 42 representative. The statement shall be given in the presence of the



1 defendant.

2 (f) If a jury is unable to agree on a sentence recommendation after  
3 reasonable deliberations, the court shall discharge the jury and proceed  
4 as if the hearing had been to the court alone.

5 (g) If the hearing is to the court alone, except as provided by  
6 IC 35-36-9, the court shall:

7 (1) sentence the defendant to death; or

8 (2) impose a term of life imprisonment without parole;

9 only if it makes the findings described in subsection (l).

10 (h) If a court sentences a defendant to death, the court shall order  
11 the defendant's execution to be carried out not later than one (1) year  
12 and one (1) day after the date the defendant was convicted. The  
13 supreme court has exclusive jurisdiction to stay the execution of a  
14 death sentence. If the supreme court stays the execution of a death  
15 sentence, the supreme court shall order a new date for the defendant's  
16 execution.

17 (i) If a person sentenced to death by a court files a petition for  
18 post-conviction relief, the court, not later than ninety (90) days after the  
19 date the petition is filed, shall set a date to hold a hearing to consider  
20 the petition. If a court does not, within the ninety (90) day period, set  
21 the date to hold the hearing to consider the petition, the court's failure  
22 to set the hearing date is not a basis for additional post-conviction  
23 relief. The attorney general shall answer the petition for post-conviction  
24 relief on behalf of the state. At the request of the attorney general, a  
25 prosecuting attorney shall assist the attorney general. The court shall  
26 enter written findings of fact and conclusions of law concerning the  
27 petition not later than ninety (90) days after the date the hearing  
28 concludes. However, if the court determines that the petition is without  
29 merit, the court may dismiss the petition within ninety (90) days  
30 without conducting a hearing under this subsection.

31 (j) A death sentence is subject to automatic review by the supreme  
32 court. The review, which shall be heard under rules adopted by the  
33 supreme court, shall be given priority over all other cases. The supreme  
34 court's review must take into consideration all claims that the:

35 (1) conviction or sentence was in violation of the:

36 (A) Constitution of the State of Indiana; or

37 (B) Constitution of the United States;

38 (2) sentencing court was without jurisdiction to impose a  
39 sentence; and

40 (3) sentence:

41 (A) exceeds the maximum sentence authorized by law; or

42 (B) is otherwise erroneous.



1 If the supreme court cannot complete its review by the date set by the  
2 sentencing court for the defendant's execution under subsection (h), the  
3 supreme court shall stay the execution of the death sentence and set a  
4 new date to carry out the defendant's execution.

5 (k) A person who has been sentenced to death and who has  
6 completed state post-conviction review proceedings may file a written  
7 petition with the supreme court seeking to present new evidence  
8 challenging the person's guilt or the appropriateness of the death  
9 sentence if the person serves notice on the attorney general. The  
10 supreme court shall determine, with or without a hearing, whether the  
11 person has presented previously undiscovered evidence that  
12 undermines confidence in the conviction or the death sentence. If  
13 necessary, the supreme court may remand the case to the trial court for  
14 an evidentiary hearing to consider the new evidence and its effect on  
15 the person's conviction and death sentence. The supreme court may not  
16 make a determination in the person's favor nor make a decision to  
17 remand the case to the trial court for an evidentiary hearing without  
18 first providing the attorney general with an opportunity to be heard on  
19 the matter.

20 (l) Before a sentence may be imposed under this section, the jury,  
21 in a proceeding under subsection (e), or the court, in a proceeding  
22 under subsection (g), must find that:

23 (1) the state has proved beyond a reasonable doubt that at least  
24 one (1) of the aggravating circumstances listed in subsection (b)  
25 exists; and

26 (2) any mitigating circumstances that exist are outweighed by the  
27 aggravating circumstance or circumstances.





Report of the President  
Pro Tempore

Madam President: Pursuant to Senate Rule 68(b), I hereby report that SB 385, currently assigned to the Committee on Judiciary, be reassigned to the Committee on Corrections & Criminal Law.

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 385, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 3, between lines 30 and 31, begin a new line block indented and insert:

**"(18) The murder is committed in a building that is primarily used for religious worship."**

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 385 as introduced.)

YOUNG R MICHAEL, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 2.

